

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O R 221505Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2680

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T JIDDA 7077

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, ET, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR: SAUDI ASSISTANCE IN PASSING FOODSTUFFS

REF: JIDDA 7076

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE WE PROPOSE
DELIVERING TO DIRECTOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AT
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PER REFTEL:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: REFERRING TO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
HIS EXCELLENCY THE DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
ON OCTOBER 20, 1975 CONCERNING TWO AMERICAN
HOSTAGES BEING HELD BY ERITREAN ELEMENTS, HIS
EXCELLENCY WILL RECALL THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE
MADE BY THE AMERICAN SIDE:

IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
THAT TWO U.S. CITIZENS, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, WHO
WERE TAKEN PRISONER NEAR ASMARA IN JULY ARE BEING
HELD HOSTAGE BY THE POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES OR
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THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, SOMEWHERE NEAR THE

ERITREAN RED SEA COAST.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THESE HOSTAGES AND THEREFORE REQUESTS THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT IN ARRANGING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION TO THEM OF A PACKAGE OF BASIC FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

IF IN THE COURSE OF ARRANGING FOR THIS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELF OR PLF INQUIRE OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT INTERMEDIARY WHETHER A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH THEM IN JIDDA OR IN ANOTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE LOCATION THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. HE SHOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE CLEAR TO THE ELF OR PLF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT SUCH A MEETING WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE RANSOM OR POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. END QUOTE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN EXPLICIT IN THE PROPOSED AIDE MEMOIRE IN STATING OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLF OR ELF REPRESENTATIVES BUT WE HAVE DELIBERATELY NOT STATED IF AS FORCEFULLY AS WE DID IN THE PRESENTATION THE AIDE MEMOIRE RECORDS. IF THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES THE TEXT WE WILL REITERATE U.S. POLICY ON NON-NEGOTIATION FOR THE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AT THE TIME WE DELIVER IT TO SIRAJ. AKINS

SECRET

NNN

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